

# THREE COUNT<sup>®</sup>

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## Justice Served? WWF Gives Sid Steroid Suspension

By ALEX MARVEZ  
Three Count Editor

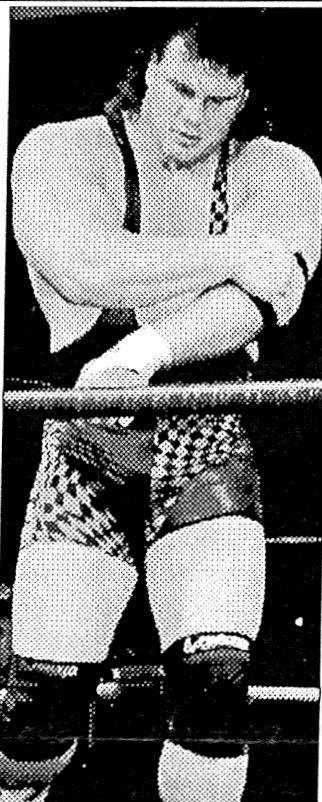
Is the World Wrestling Federation's anabolic steroid testing program finally working? If reports concerning Sid Justice's suspension from the WWF are true, it appears so.

Justice, the WWF's lead heel, was suspended for six weeks early last week for "unprofessional conduct," according to WWF spokesman Steve Planamenta. Planamenta did not elaborate on the suspension, stating he did not know whether it was levied for an in-ring or out-of-ring altercation, but three wrestling insiders say Justice was suspended because he was caught cheating on a steroid test in late March prior to Wrestlemania VIII.

"I can't say if the report is true or false, because I don't know," Planamenta said. "But I wouldn't fault you if you printed it."

The suspension reportedly caps a week in which Justice also quit and was, subsequently, fired before being placed on suspension. Several reports say Justice was involved in a locker room argument with WWF road agent Jay Strongbow last weekend after a match with The Ultimate Warrior in the Boston Gardens. Justice reportedly claimed that the Warrior was a horrible worker, etc., when Strongbow told Justice he could leave if he didn't like the situation. Justice then said he was quitting, packed his bags and left. WWF owner Vince McMahon reportedly fired Justice later that weekend, but as of May 4, the two had reconciled and Justice will return once the suspension ends.

The situation involving the steroid testing reportedly stems from an incident the week prior to Wrestlemania VIII. Three sources say referee Dave Hebner caught Justice using urine from an eye dropper to hand in as his sample for the testing. Such a move, the sources say, went unpunished until the story had reached



Scott Steiner, shown adjusting his arm pad, teamed with his brother, Rick, to regain the WCW tag-team titles.

## Briefly

- Rick and Scott Steiner regained the World Championship Wrestling tag-team titles May 3 from Bobby Eaton and Arn Anderson in 13:26 at a house show in Chicago. The finish came when Anderson had Rick on his shoulders, and Eaton was preparing to come off the top rope with a clothesline. Eaton dove off, and Rick turned it into a powerslam for the pinfall at the 13:26 mark. The match was, surprisingly, said to be disappointing.

- *WBF Body Stars*, the body-building show produced and owned by World Wrestling Federation czar Vince McMahon, has become a paid program on the USA Network. The show, which is telecast at 11 a.m. Saturdays, was drawing only a 0.7 rating in its first three weeks on the air. In comparison, WCW's *Power Hour* telecast two hours earlier draws a larger audience and between double and triple that rating.

- Hercules (Ray Hernandez) de-

(Continued on Page 5)

## CMLL Split A Shocker

By Steve Sims

Special to Three Count

CHICAGO -- CMLL, the world's largest wrestling promotion both in terms of wrestling events promoted annually and of number of wrestlers employed, has split up. CMLL vice president Antonio Pena, regarded by many as the creative force behind the CMLL regaining status as Mexico's

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# No New Tales on A Current Affair

By ALEX MARVEZ  
Three Count Editor

With all the allegations regarding sex and anabolic steroid abuses in the World Wrestling Federation, could an eight-year old scandal not relating to either subject be the main thrust of a television tabloid piece?

Up until Thursday afternoon, that was the belief following a news story released on the Associated Press news wires concerning an episode of *A Current Affair* about the WWF. The advance centered around allegations made by ex-WWF star "Doctor D" David Shults that WWF owner Vince McMahon asked him to hit 20/20 reporter John Stossel during a 1984 interview.

Shults' claim, which has already been chronicled in various newsletters and mainstream publications, was backed by Jim Stewart, McMahon's former chauffeur. Stossel, who filed a lawsuit claiming he lost hearing in his ear as the result of a Shults slap, settled out of court with the WWF for \$425,000.

The piece, though, did cover the same ground about the sex issues the way other TV tabloid shows did. Most interesting was an "ambush" interview conducted by *A Current Affair* reporter with McMahon, where the WWF owner denied comment on questions and told him he would have to go through WWF spokesman Steve Planamenta to set up an official interview. An interview with McMahon, who drove away in his car without answering any questions, was denied by Planamenta the next day.

The facet of the story that will likely linger the longest concerns a letter written by **Murray Hodgson** to McMahon dated April 27. In the letter, Hodgson, who claims he was fired from a two-year contract because he would not have sexual relations with WWF match-maker **Pat Patterson**, asks McMahon if he could work for the World Bodybuilding Federation at their June 13 pay-per-view show.

The letter was originally thought to reflect a secret financial settlement between McMahon and Hodgson before depositions are taken for Hodgson's breach of contract law suit in Connecticut state court. However, Hodgson's attorney **Ed Nusbaum** said no settlement was reached and the suit will proceed as scheduled.

"It's hard to say why Murray wrote that letter," Nusbaum said. "There are two reasons. The first is Murray is probably giving more tongue and cheek to try and goose McMahon. The second is, that at the time Murray's contract was terminated, Vince McMahon extended the possibility to Murray about possibly doing some independent contracting. This wasn't well thought out on Murray's part, but it's not something that will have any impact or value on the case."

Nusbaum said Hodgson's contract was worth a total of \$165,000, which is why the \$160,000 figure being bandied about as what Hodgson is looking for as a settlement may be within reason. Depositions in the trial were delayed when **Jerry McDevitt**, Hulk Hogan's attorney who will represent the WWF in the Hodgson suit, applied for a license to practice law in Connecticut. Once the process gets approved, which will likely happen later this week, it will probably be late May or early June until the depositions are taken of Hodgson, McMahon and Patterson.

## Sheet Spotlight

Here's a look at the top stories of some of the other wrestling newsletters, with subscription information:

• **Dave Meltzer's Wrestling Observer Newsletter** (May 4): Complete handicapping of the NWA tag-team tournament and excellent biographies of all the foreign participants; News that Japan's SWS may work with the FMW to keep the latter group afloat; First report of WWF lawsuit against New Jersey athletic commission; More on the Murray Hodgson lawsuit against the WWF; Regional reports from every wrestling crevice known to man. *Weekly; \$1.50 an issue. P.O. Box 1228, Campbell CA 95009-1228.*

• **Wade Keller's Pro Wrestling Torch** (May 7): Details of Eddie Gilbert's in-ring tirade to end his relationship with the GWF; An interview with Jim Ross shilling for WCW; A new format, with Eric Krol's WCW column beginning on the front page. *Weekly; \$1.25 an issue (Free sample available). P.O. Box 201844, Minneapolis MN 55420.*

• **Steve Sims's Lucha Libre Weekly** (May 5): The fantastic analysis piece of the CMLL split that appeared in this issue; An update on UWA wrestlers appearing in New Japan's light-heavyweight tournament; News from lucha libre fanzines in Mexico. *Steve's best issue yet. Weekly; \$1 an issue. 1427 West Dickens Ave., Chicago, IL 60614-3003.*

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# TV Summary

*The following is a weekly feature briefly summarizing some of the wrestling/body-building television action featured during the past weekend. In future weeks, this report will be expanding to cover more areas.*

## WWF Superstars of Wrestling

**Highlights:** Tatanka-Rick Martel confrontation, with Martel spraying Arrogance into Tatanka's eyes; The Ultimate Warrior squashing Skinner; The debut of High Energy (Koko Ware and Owen Hart); Ric Flair wrestles Sergeant Slaughter on next week's show.

**Lowlights:** Trying to sell last week's Berserker-Under-taker match as a "near fatal" confrontation; A new format of WCW's event centers that makes Shawn Mooney appear slumped over; When Vince McMahon was asked by Curt Hennig where Ware had been,

McMahon said he didn't know.

**Three Count 10-point scale rating: 3.**

## WCW Saturday Night

**Highlights:** Eric Bischoff has greatly improved his delivery on the WCW magazine segments; A legitimate looking news conference announcing the NWA tag-team title pairings (with a WWF microphone in front on the podium).

**Lowlights:** A 38-minute Big Josh-Arn Anderson bout; Jason Hervey, while a name star, was extremely abrasive as guest host; Ridiculous angle where a disguised Paul E. Dangerously heckled Barry Windham until Windham went into the crowd to reveal who it was; Too many squash matches.

**Three Count rating: 3.**

## Kimala Returns to WWF

(Continued from Page 1)

enough people that it threatened to undermine McMahon's testing program.

Papa Shongo will take Justice's place in upcoming matches against The Warrior. The story line introducing the feud was taped April 29 in Rochester, NY, when Shongo performed a voodoo curse on the Warrior's wrist. Thus, Shongo's evil spell has caused the Warrior to undergo great pain from an "unexplained" wrist injury.

To take Justice's place in the WWF's heel line-up is Kimala, who begins on the road the weekend of May 16. Kimala debuted at a WWF TV taping in Niagra Falls April 28, with Harvey Whippleman acting as Kimala's manager. Kim Chee (reportedly Steve Lombardi) served as Kimala's keeper.

Other highlights from the five-hour, 38-match taping in Niagra Falls:

- Randy Savage defeated Ric Flair via disqualification in a five-minute main event when "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig interfered. In an interview segment conducted with Savage by Gene Okerlund, the "Mean" one said there was "more shocking evidence to be released" in the Flair-Savage situation.

- Okerlund also conducted interviews with Repo Man, Bret Hart and Sergeant Slaughter to set up their respective feuds with British Bulldog, Shawn Michaels and The Mountie.

- In the non-squash matches, Earthquake defeated Ted DiBiase via disqualification, The Beverly Brothers topped The Bushwhackers when Blake Beverly pinned Butch Miller. After the bout, The Beverlies continued their assault until the Legion of Doom made the save. The Undertaker pinned The Berserker with a tombstone piledriver after recovering from three Berserker piledrivers. Taker also slammed Mr. Fuji after the match to boot. The L.O.D. and Natural Disasters also teamed to defeat The Nasty Boys and Money, Inc., when The 'Quake pinned Brian Nobbs. Hart pinned Michaels when Sensational Sherri's interference backfired.

- Few other details were available from the WWF's Superstars taping in Rochester other than The Convict (Kevin Kelly) showing up and destroying The Big Boss Man in a very hard-core angle. Convict is wearing lifts, so he appears to be around 6-8.

## WWF Cancels

### Jacksonville Show

By ALEX MARVEZ

Three Count Editor

The World Wrestling Federation cancelled four of its last six house shows over the past weekend, including a May 4 date in Jacksonville because of poor attendance.

The WWF cancelled dates in Fresno, San Francisco, Long Beach and Jacksonville. The Long Beach show was postponed because of the rioting in the Los Angeles area, but the other three were all called off for poor attendance.

The Jacksonville Coliseum show only had an advance of 362 with Ric Flair vs. Randy Savage as the headliner. The WWF drew a \$77,000 house in the same building last January for Flair vs. Hulk Hogan in the main event. WCW's Wrestle War pay-per-view show at the Coliseum May 17 had an advance of 1,500 tickets sold as of April 27.

**Other Florida notes:** Eddy Mansfield's International Wrestling Federation is running a show May 16 at the Mayport Naval Base in Jacksonville with Blackjack Mulligan vs. Black Bart in the main event. Also on the undercard is The Possessor (Ned Brady) vs. Raul Mata in a rematch from a super brawl held last year in St. Petersburg.

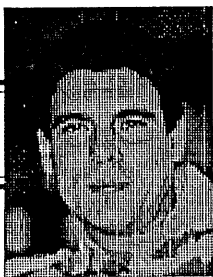
- Jim Neidhart (subbing for Hercules) pinned Dan Spivey in the main event of an ICWA show May 1 in Fort Myers. Dean Malenko pinned Jimmy Backlund in one of the undercard bouts.

# Montini Back to Old Tricks in CMLL

The May 3 Galavision show was billed as a show exclusively with six-man tag-team matches, with some of the participants being interviewed to open the telecast. The best one was done by Los Brazos.

1) The tecnico team of Los Metales (Bronce, Plata and Oro) defeated the weird rudo team of La Plaga (The Plague -- Enjambre-Marabunta-Ponzonia) in two falls. The three rudo wrestlers are forced to where costumes reminis-

## Carlos Rey



cent of creature feature. This is OK for kids, but for the hard-core wrestling fan, this is a turn-off and terrible angle. Jerry Lawler has done this type of thing, and it would never work in the U.S. The first fall went to los technicos as Oro made Marabunta submit with a backbreaker, Bronce made Enjambre submit and Plata pinned Ponzonia. Los Metales were on the receiving end for most of the second fall, but as is becoming customary, the technicos used a wide variety of moves to gain the fall and match. Bronce and Oro pinned Marabunta and Enjambre, and Ponzonia was unable to answer the bell. I truly believe Los Metales will become one of the major teams of 1992.

2) The tecnico team of Super Astro-Iga-Koga defeated Los Destructores del Ring (Tony Arce-El Vulcano-Rocco Valente) in three falls. This was another rematch between these two teams. The rudos kept coming out on top during the previous matches, so you had to figure the technicos would win one sometime. Both Iga and Koga submitted in the first fall, and Super Astro was unable to answer the count. The second fall had los technicos (who were really over) even things up when Astro headbutted Vulcano for the pin, Iga pinned Valente and Koga forced a submission on Arce. The third fall saw all three rudos pinned simultaneously, leaving them stunned as they had things well in hand throughout the third fall.

3) Los Brazos (rudos) lost a two-of-three fall bout to Volador-Misterioso-Angel Azteca in a bout which saw another heel turn of referee El Gato Montini. The technicos jumped the rudos during the ring introduction and gained a quick pinfall. The finish came when Brazo de Plata accidentally splashed his brothers and was consequently covered by Azteca for the pin.

This made the other Brazos very angry, and they teased walking out on Super Porky. At this point it was mentioned that Porky had gone on a diet and was following his doctor's orders. Also, Porky's wife was mentioned as being a strong arm behind him to make sure he loses weight (Porky has gained about 50 pounds since last summer, and he was about 75-100 pounds overweight then). The second fall was very intense, ending with a Brazo victory. Brazo de Oro made Azteca submit, El Brazo pinned Misterioso and Porky splashed Volador from the top rope for the pin (I don't care how much of a work wrestling is -- I don't know how Volador was able to get up from the third fall after the move). Volador pinned El Brazo with the help of Misterioso and Porky pinned Misterioso in the third fall. Then came the highlight of the show as Azteca was being pinned by Brazo de Oro with both men's shoulders on the mat. Azteca bridged up at the last second. Both Montini and second referee Wello Rangel counted the pinfall. Montini completely ignored the bridge and tried to award the match to Los Brazos, but Rangel would not allow it and gave the match to the technicos. Los Brazos even appealed to the ringside commissioners over the decision, but to no avail.

4) This final match saw more of Montini's shenanigans as Los Intocables (Pierroth-Masakre-Jaque Mate) defeated the tecnico team of Black Magic-Atlantis-Canadian Vampire. Every time I see Los Intocables I like them more and more. They won the first fall as Mate and Masakre stretched Magic into submission and Vampire and Atlantis could not offer resistance to the rudo onslaught, thus losing the fall. The second fall had Vampire pin Pierroth, Atlantis pin Mate and Masakre would not accept Magic's challenge to enter the ring and surrendered the fall. The third fall was very good, with Los Intocables gaining an advantage through brawling tactics. At this point, Pierroth ripped Atlantis' mask off in front of Montini, an automatic disqualification in Mexico. However, "The Cat" did not call for the DQ and counted Pierroth's pin of Atlantis. Pierroth then quickly rolled Atlantis from the ring and threw him back his mask. Rangel did not see what went on and awarded the match to the rudos. Atlantis then began complaining to Montini, but to no avail. Finally, a member of the commission appeared and talked to Montini. It was announced that The Cat was suspended for two weeks,

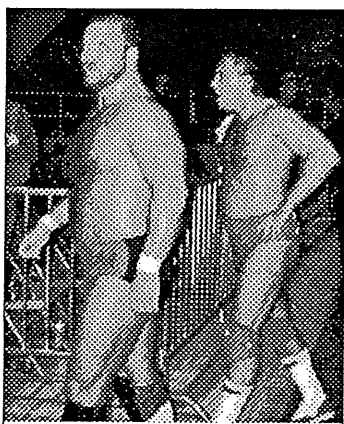
which means the babyfaces can breathe easier until late May. Anyone interested in obtaining Galavision tapes can write to Carlos at 996 West 45th Place, Hialeah, FL 33012 for more information.

## Briefly

(Continued from Page 1)

buted in WCW May 1 at a television taping in St. Petersburg as The Super Invader. Herc was managed by Harley Race, wore a costume and green stocking as a mask, and won a number of handicap matches. Jim Neidhart is also rumored to be entering WCW, but WCW executive vice president Kip Frey said his eventual (if any) appearance is far from definite.

- The turn of Larry Zbyszko continued at the St.



Anderson and Zbyszko

Petersburg tapings in a match featuring Anderson and Steve Austin against Nikita Koloff and Ricky Steamboat. Zbyszko attempted to interfere, but accidentally hit Anderson with the phone as the referee disqualified the heel team. As Zbyszko turned around to walk away, Paul E. Dangerously attempted hitting him with the phone but Zbyszko turned around in time and caught Dangerously in motion. Anderson then shoved Zbyszko, and Austin had to separate the two of them. Surprisingly, the fans were

chanting Zbyszko's name throughout the angle.

- Other upcoming angles include a big push for The Diamond Studd (who will replace Zbyszko in the Dangerous Alliance), The Freebirds defeating Greg Valentine and Terry Taylor for the U.S. tag-team titles (which will happen May 17 on the Wrestle War pay-per-view show) and Rick Rude defeating Dustin Rhodes in the final of the Nintendo tournament being conducted on WCW syndicated shows.

- Frey, The Steiners, Tom Zenk and Teddy Long visited an area of Atlanta's inner-city on May 4 where disturbances broke out following the acquittal of four police officers in the Rodney King trial. *Three Count* will have an interview with Long in next week's newsletter.

- Recent Academy Award winner Jack Palance was asked by WCW to appear at Wrestle War, but turned them down. Upcoming guests on *WCW Saturday Night* telecasts include former Los Angeles Raiders tight end Dave Casper, Randy Rackman of MTV's *Headbangers Ball* and, possibly, Dave Meltzer of the *Wrestling Observer Newsletter*.

- WCW did file a lawsuit against Lex Luger two weeks ago in Atlanta state court for breach of contract. Frey said the breach could not be disclosed because of a confidentiality clause in an agreement signed between WCW and Luger when the promotion let the "Total Package" out of his contract a year early.

- Correspondent Danny Parris reports Wahoo McDaniel won a 15-man battle royal in the main event of a National Championship Wrestling card April 23 before 130 fans in Spartanburg, S.C. McDaniel also teamed with Jay Eagle on an undercard bout.

## Ring Recall

### Solie Encounter No Prank Call

By MIKE ROSENTHAL

Special to *Three Count*

Growing up in the Sunshine State during the heyday of Championship Wrestling from Florida, I was fortunate enough to see most of the mat greats of the 1960s and '70s. Grapplers such as Boris Malenko, The Missouri Mauler, the Funk and Brisco brothers traveled from one regional promotion to another after various stints in Florida. While this exchange of talent prevented the personalities from getting stale, there was one constant through the years. A person who could never seem stale -- the legendary announcer Gordon Solie.

My fondest "Ring Recall" goes back only two years to a World Championship Wrestling card at the Knight Center in Miami. After the matches, *Three Count's* esteemed editor/publisher Alex Marvez escorted me backstage and introduced me to The Great One (Not Malenko, but Solie). He was in town in his then-role as WCW event coordinator for the state of Florida. Alex had arranged a phone call a day earlier from Solie to me in which Gordon began the conversation in a thick German accent using a pseudonym. When he finally switched to the familiar baritone and said, "Hi Mike, this is Gordon Solie," I thought for several seconds that it was a prank phone call. We chatted for a minute or two before Gordon ended the call by saying he looked forward to meeting me the next day (*Him* looking forward to meeting *me*, I thought to myself).

The night I met Gordon face-to-face was also my first chance to see wrestlers up close. In fact, our chat was interrupted once by none other than Ric Flair, who was asking if anyone knew where his car keys were. Amazingly, I did! Flair didn't wrestle on the card because of a knee injury, but was at ringside in street clothes for a match in which he later interfered. Apparently, the keys fell out of his pants at this time and were retrieved after the match by a ringside security guard. When I saw the guard pick up the keys, I didn't know who they belonged to. But as soon as the Nature Boy came looking for them, I described the guard and five minutes later, Flair was back with his keys in hand.

Anyway, I would tell you more about my conversation with the Walter Cronkite of wrestling announcers, but this is all the space Alex allowed me. So I guess I'll say, "So long from the Sunshine State."

"Ring Recall" is a feature for *Three Count* readers to contribute memories of one of their favorite wrestling moments for publication every two weeks. Entries should be no longer than 300 words. Subscribers whose contributions are printed will receive that issue for free.

# Alonso-Pena Split Divides CMLL

(Continued from Page 1)

top promotion, submitted his resignation last week to president Francisco "Paco" Alonso Lutteroth. Many CMLL wrestlers, in support of Pena, have reportedly offered their services to quit as well, and it is presumed Pena and these wrestlers will attempt to start a promotion in competition with Alonso's. There have been rumors of this split as far back as mid-1991, and some thought it had already happened. The biggest questions arising from this might concern the future, but here is what is known right now.

(Editor's note: The weekly lucha libre show on Galavisión airs the CMLL group. It used to be known as the EMLL, but the Mexican UWA group merged with the EMLL in mid-1991 and the name of the group was changed).

Pena was the television producer for Televisa and Galavisión, and many observers felt it was Pena's ideas that had turned the promotion around in 1992 after a sub-par 1991. It had been thought for some time that Pena and Alonso did not get along well, with Alonso feeling Pena would eventually try to seize control of the promotion from under him. Differences between the two reached a critical point last August and September. Pena signed contracts on behalf of the EMLL to begin televising the major EMLL show of the week held the previous Friday on television the following Sunday. Originally, the television slot was to be on Sunday night during prime time on the most watched network in the country. Alonso was either not in on these negotiations or did not realize their full scope.

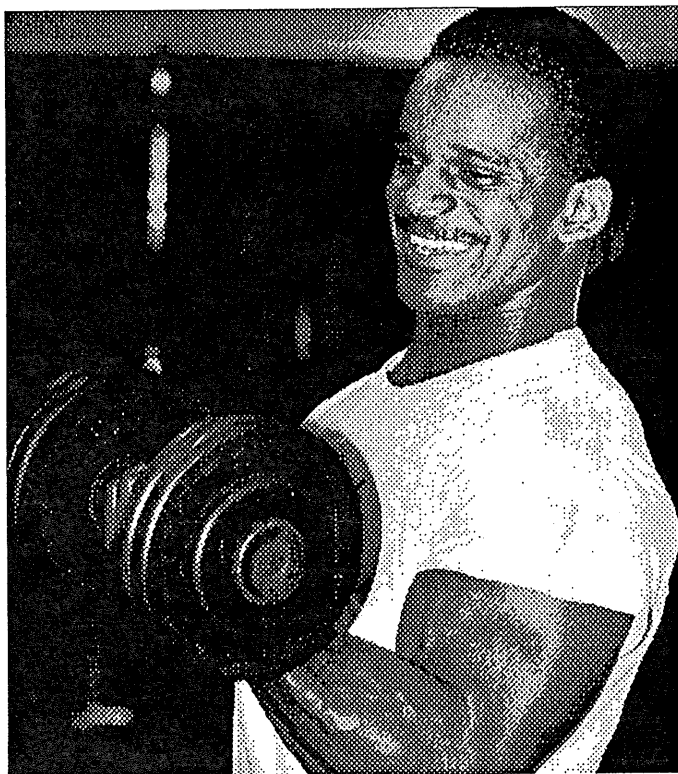
The wrestlers' union, under the stated reason that they feared overexposure of their product on television would kill a fertile territory, said they would rather strike rather than participate in any other TV tapings for Pena. Soon thereafter, the strike occurred. Eventually, the strike was settled, with Televisa giving in and allowing the TV slot to be moved to noon and allowing the UWA to telecast weekly cards on a weaker Mexican network. In turn, the union allowed its wrestlers to work Pena's TV tapings (Side note: It has been suggested that another reason the union did not want Pena's TV show in prime time was that the benefits to the EMLL would be so huge in terms of exposure that the weaker UWA would be severely hurt. So far, this fear appears well justified).

Since he was hired around 1988, Pena has done other things besides producing television for the EMLL. He was the "idea man" for the company. He came up with new characters and gimmicks out of whole cloth (literally and figuratively) like Octagon, Mascara Sagrada, Misterioso, Volador and others. He created a whole new promotional "league" with the character-heavy midgets (who because of their work rate were a smashing success). He went out and acquired the talent he saw in other promotions he felt would best help him. Rey Misterio and Konan from the UWA/Tijuana area are two examples, and several UWA stars such as Pedro "El Perro" Aguayo, Ultimate Dragon (Yoshihiro Asai), Los Brazos (Another side note: Crucial to Pena's success is that he raided the best workers from the opposition, not the biggest names, best bodies or most charismatic guys). Pena, I believe, heavily influences, if not outright determines, who wins, how they win and how to promote to heat long-term feuds for "his" guys.

It's at this point of "his" guys that we begin to enter a very nebulous area. It is a fact that Alonso, Pena and even CMLL financial head Juan Herrera each have wrestlers who are allied with each one of them. For a fact, El Satanico and Lizmark are in Alonso's camp. Octagon and Konan are in Pena's camp. And while those who are affiliated with Herrera are fewer, I believe the Guerrero brothers, Bestia Salvaje and Comando Ruso are there. By the way, on yet another side note, Los Brazos are almost always referred to as "peacemakers" in and out of the union.

Two wrestlers who have given notice are a major surprise -- Aguayo and El Hijo del Santo. I presume that with Pena's resignation the wrestlers in his camp who are working for CMLL will also be gone soon. By my estimation, this would be, but not limited to, Octagon, Sagrada, Konan, Ringo and Cachorro Mendoza, America, Aguila Solitaria, Ciclón Ramirez, Los Metales (Oro, Brazo and Plata), Rocco Valente, Tony Arce, Vulcano, Misterioso, Apolo and Cesar Dantes, El Felino, Canelo Casas, The Blue Panther, Vampiro Cassanova, Fuerza Guerrero Jr. and Sr., and all the super midgets. Also throw Negro Casas in there if/when he jumps from the UWA. A good federation could really be formed with that roster. In fact, the most





**The status of Black Magic (Norman Smiley), shown lifting weights in a Miami Beach gym, is unknown after the break-up of the CMLL group in Mexico.**

recently quoted figure I have was that the CMLL was employing 165 wrestlers (The UWA employs about 70). You could have a CMLL split and still have two groups with 80+ wrestlers, not to mention the fact there are some young guys wrestling in the little arenas like El Tarasco III, El Goleador, Los Rayos Stars and others who could step in and help right away. Guys could also be brought in from other territories, like Monterrey, Juarez, Guadalajara and/or Tijuana.

What's next? It is presumed Pena, with his ties to Televisa, would be in a better position here. It is also possible Alonso may get Saturday's show of two hours and Pena may get the better Sunday slot. It has been rumored that Pena, who takes many of his ideas from the World Wrestling Federation, would turn the television show into a squash match/interview format (A big mistake in my opinion).

Among the talent probably left for Alonso to use include El Dandy, Black Magic (Norman Smiley), El Satanico, Pirata Morgan, The Dynamite Brothers (Cien Caras, Mascara Año 2000 and Universo 2000), Salvaje, Emilio Charles, Atlantis and Sangre Chicana. Alonso will likely force all the wrestlers to sign

new contracts to see who he has. He will undoubtedly push those who sign and lose the rest. This week's TV that aired on Galavisión May 2 is already finished, and next week's show may be a "children's day" special. But after that, all bets are off. Alonso has the advantage when it comes to running the arenas, as has 18+ years of experience and has (presumably) dealt honorably with the major arenas throughout the country. While Pena has been working TV, Alonso has handled the arena bookings.

How all this could effect the UWA could be interesting. It is not out of the realm of possibility that there may be some sort of alliance between Alonso and the UWA (not a direct merger, though). Alonso was around when the UWA broke away from the EMLL in late 1974, but right now, Pena would be much tougher competition for Alonso than the UWA. A likely form this could take is to make sure that each group's biggest one or two cards of the week run without direct opposition from the other groups, and I could easily see some form of talent-sharing pool being established. The UWA has a golden opportunity right now to make some strides, because they are the "stabllest" group in Mexico.

Alonso and Herrera (who is almost sure to stay with Alonso in this split) control the purse strings of the promotion. Pena had been very quietly getting Televisa to invest into his TV production, and I would guess the money for any promotion Pena would start would come from either Televisa or private investors. If those private investors compare attendance at the UWA and CMLL shows for the past two-to-three years, they would see both groups have been declining, far more so with the UWA). They would probably think twice about investing in a new promotion. Televisa, however, would be sinking its money only into a weekly television series, and that is a horse of a different color altogether. If the rating for the Sunday lucha libre show is at or near the levels that have been claimed in some quarters (25 percent shares, which is extraordinary. I highly doubt these numbers, but as the only living for of a sort of "Mexican national theater" is lucha libre, maybe they are accurate), then that sort of Televisa investment could be more logically defended.

# Spotlight on: Barry Orton

Yes, it seems Barry Orton remains the favorite son of *Three Count's* Spotlight section. Yet, this profile of the wrestler known as Barry O is much different than that which has been read here and in other newspapers, or heard on tabloid television shows.

Orton, a former long-time WWF preliminary wrestler, came forward with claims of sexual harassment by former WWF front-office employees Pat Patterson and Terry Garvin last February on Mike Tenay's *Wrestling Insiders* radio show. Orton said that while the harassment took place in 1978, before all three performers entered the WWF, the effects of him telling both men "No" cost him a push in the promotion. Since then, Orton has appeared on such shows as *Donahue*, *Larry King Live* and *Entertainment Tonight* to talk about sexual harassment in wrestling.

Prior to the *Donahue* show, Orton befriended Tom and Lee Cole, who were planning to sue the WWF on charges of sexual harassment in New York State court. Cole and WWF owner Vince McMahon reached an out-of-court settlement March 15, the night before the *Donahue* show was taped, with Cole agreeing to return as a ring boy, \$70,000 in back pay and the stipulation two of the WWF employees who Cole claimed molested him (Mel Phillips and Garvin) would never be used by the WWF again. The details of the settlement, however, were unbeknownst to Orton before the show. Orton claims Lee Cole tried to set up him and the panel of wrestlers on the *Donahue* show who aired gripes against McMahon.

Sources close to Orton say he is heart-broken over the Cole situation, having befriended both and in turn feeling betrayed. The following interview was conducted April 19 on Ric Carter's *Wrestle Talk* radio show in Las Vegas, with Carter, Bill Kunkel and Dan Farren asking the questions.

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BK: A *Wrestling Observer* story a few issues ago originated with you, where something happened before the *Donahue* show where a message arrived. Can you tell us about that?

BO: (Laughing hysterically) Well, does everyone understand that Vince (McMahon) was planning on having someone say Tom Cole's name?

BK: OK, well let me set this up then. Vince has already, as you go into the studio to do the *Donahue* show, cut a deal with Tom Cole. It has been established that the minute anyone mentions Tom Cole's name on the air, Tom will stand up, run to Vince's side, embrace him in fatherly fashion and say, "Vince is the only person who really cared for me. You guys are parasites and vultures." Barry, can you give us some insight into why this happened.

BO: (Sarcastically) I guess that Vince was expecting someone to say Tom Cole?

RC: I wonder where Vince would get an idea like that?

BO: I don't have any idea except for the fact that perhaps...(laughter) OK, let me set this up for everyone. Tom Cole's brother, Lee, called me every day saying, "We're going to sue, we're going to go to court, we're not going to settle out of court. Hey, thank you very much for coming forward, etc." I don't want to make him look like any more of a putz than he actually is, but he is a really big putz. So sue me. He calls me up and says, "Barry, everyone's worried that we're not really going to go to court and press charges." And I'm like, "Why are they worried about that?" And he said, "I don't know. We're going to go to court." And I said OK, because I don't have any reason not to believe this guy.

RC: Did Lee Cole mention that he was an atheist?

BO: Is he an atheist?

RC: No, because he swore he was going to file suit...

BO: What am I, swearing? (Hysterical laughter) I'm an agnostic. You know, you think about it, just to get off the subject for a few minutes, in Ireland you wonder what it would be like if it was the Catholics fighting the agnostics. "Hey you bloody non-believer? Hey, you bloody can't-make-your-mind up..." (More laughter) Anyway, to make a long story longer -- I like to add flavor to what I talk about -- Lee was calling me three or four times a day giving me all these lines of hoopla and b.s. (Orton making a whiny, child's voice) "I was molested when I was a kid...Wah, Wah." (Editor's note: Cole's attorney, Alan Fuchseberg said McMahon claimed he was sexually molested as a child to Tom Cole during a five-hour meeting between the two parties March 15). Yeah, sure Vince. But this little kid believed him and he pays the kid off. Now they're waiting for someone to say on *Donahue* the name "Tom Cole." It was already pre-determined in my mind that there was no reason to say this guys name. The night before, I went to *Donahue* and there was the mystery phone call from Lee Cole saying, "Barry this is urgent. It's OK to use Tom's name, but not use mine?!" Geez, (Tom's name) slipped my mind. Sorry, man. By the way, Vince, thanks for the plug. I'm writing a book. Case closed. End of story. What else do you guys want to know? Is Vince McMahon a liar (even more hysterical laughter)?

DF: I was wondering. Do you still have a lot of contacts with guys in the business, and what do they think



about this?

BO: You know what? I learned something a couple of years ago. When you're not in the business, you have no contacts and no friends. All these people I thought were my friends were only my acquaintances. It's really a sad thing, because we're all only people right? So we have a heart, and so I love 'em like a friend or a brother. So you're not part of a clique any more, and they kind of avoid you like you're a piece of, err, doo-doo. No, I don't have any contacts, and I don't want to have, either.

BK: I don't blame you. We really appreciate you coming on, especially with that sore throat. You need to get some lemon or something.

BO: Well, I've got to tell you why I've really got the sore throat. It's like, my band was jamming all night.

RC: How was that party on Friday night?

BO: It just ended this morning (more laughter). Hey, wait a minute, I just want everybody to know now I'm not denying anything. Today, let me talk to Vince. "Hello, Vinnie, open the checkbook, brother."

RC: I wanted to know, have you been contacted yet (in the investigations into allegations of the sexual harassment claimed by Cole and others in WWF locker rooms reportedly being conducted by McMahon and Fairfax Investigators)?

BO: I was just going to say, how about this investigation?

RC: They're leaving no stone unturned. Also, what about these depositions into Murray Hodgson for his lawsuit?

BO: Oh, the homosexual (hysterical laughter; Orton was referring to claim made by Roddy Piper on a San Francisco radio station to justify Patterson's behavior in the Hodgson situation).

BK: I heard Murray said that he wishes he was gay so he could throw that homophobia back in their face?

BO: OK, well look at this. Here we have a guy, Vince McMahon, who is claiming homophobia when he knows I'm the last person who would care. And when he turns around and makes people who are totally heterosexual people like Keith Franke (Adrian Adonis) into a costume as a gay person and has everyone saying "Faggot" at them...But to put the stone where it hurts, (McMahon) tries to discredit me for being an ex-convict?

BK: And now he has Roddy Piper doing it?

BO: That's because Roddy Piper is the only person left in that company with credibility (laughter)?!!?

RC: Of course, Roddy Piper is the same guy who told the kid who he starred with on *Superboy* who asked if wrestling was real is that the preliminary matches are real, but there is too much money involved in the main events and you could never fix them.

BO: Oh yeah, right.

RC: What do you think of Vince stealing your idea about *The Convict*?

BO: *The Convict*? It's totally ironic. Here's a guy saying, "Hey, check the source of these claims. (Orton) is a convict. He's an ex-con." Yet, at the same time, he's pushing a convict. (*The Convict*) will probably be a babyface in six months. "Hey, I'm the happy go lucky convict."

BK: And now we've got J.T. Southern in the NWA. That should give you a case of déjà vu (Orton claims he proposed the idea of a rock-n-roll type character to WCW a few years ago, but was told it would never work as a gimmick).

BO: What do you want me to say, sour grapes? OK, OK, sorry grapes, all right. I admit it. So sue me. Hey, Vince, how's your son doing these days (more hysterical laughter). Wait a minute, before we hang up, I want everyone to know this: Lee Cole, you sold your brother to Vince McMahon for sex. What's wrong with you, man? Jesus, wake up. \$70,000...it's probably already gone on crack cocaine I guess. Once a prostitute, always a prostitute. It's like, "Play with my feet, Mel, baby?" I feel like I stuck my neck out for the little...nice guy...and he burned me. He was going to throw me to the wolves on national TV. For \$70,000? Come on already. I wish he would have come up there and said Vince was the only one who cared for him, because I would have knocked his teeth down his throat. It would have been like, this is the Barry O scandal? Barry O attacks juvenile.

BK: Then you and David Shults could be barred from all talk show appearances with Vince (Editor's note: One of the stipulations Vince McMahon demanded before appearing on *Donahue* was that Shults not be allowed to appear as scheduled. The request was granted).

BO: Think about this. All the controversy going on when David Shults slapped John Stossel (on 20/20 in 1985), that Geraldo look-alike...What do people remember about that? How much did that cost Vince? \$450,000? Where did Shults end up? How much money did Shults slapping Stossel make Vince?

DF: It's incalculable, because after that piece, business really took off for Titan.

BO: You're damn right, because you know what everybody thought? If he's going to slap somebody in the head about this, there has to be something to it.

**Next issue:** We reduced to 10 pages this week because of the absence of *Three Count* columnist Paul Hanlin Jr., who had to study for a work-related test. Speaking of studying, my semester at the University of Florida has ended (Thank God). This means even more time can be dedicated to making *Three Count* even better (we're getting there). Next week's issue will be 12 pages and features a preview of Wrestle War '92, an interview with Teddy Long, the return of John Muse's Japanese column and the letters pages, Carlos Rey's lucha libre report (and update on the situation in Mexico) and the breaking news stories of the week.

I also want to give a special thanks to Dr. Mike Lano and John Patton for the photos, and Steve Sims for use of his story on the CMLL splitting up. More of this story and a complete update of CMLL, UWA and lucha news from Japan is available in Steve's *Lucha Libre Weekly*, available for \$1 an issue at 1427 West Dickens Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60614. I want to extend a special thanks for Steve with allowing me to reprint the bulk of his newsletter's lead story here. In turn, Steve wanted to thank the *Wrestling Observer's* Dave Meltzer for his help in assembling the story.

Also, in regards to back issues and resubscriptions, please indicate if you want a particular back issue that may have been missed because of a subscription lapse or possibility of such. As I am not at the newsletter's "home office" in Gainesville, I will not be able to process back issue claims as rapidly unless I have a written request. Also, an apology to my foreign readers who received Issue 32 late. The post office has increased the postage rate to sixth-three cents an issue. Thus, I am asking that when foreign subscribers renew, they enclose an extra \$1 to cover postage. Until then, I'll pay the tab.

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